5 Sept 31

Dear Prof. Robinson,

I am sending you a bunch of rare Gray letters to my father, scattered over a no. of years. Such things are doubtless stored in the Gray Herbarium. As the Chief Deputy will not be continuing in the botanical field, I am distributing such accumulations.

In about the fortnight I expect to be sailing for Egypt again.

Yours sincerely,

E. W. Olivier

[illegible]

In the same way I am sending a list of Darwin's letters to Down, where Darwiniana are preserved.

Here is a quotation (circa 1862, but D., unlike Gray, rarely writes the year)

"Thank Hooker for very kind offer of dried plants; but I hate dried plants; I can make nothing of them, & I profoundly pity all you botanists."

Have you read Mitchell Bitchard's "Dr Darwin". It is simply "screaming"

About that time ("the sixties") Darwin was continually writing to my father for names, references, &c. & often had my father old. make observations & experiments on plants not accessible at Down. He seems to have apologized for so much trouble given, & my father evidently replied that it was nothing & that he was delighted. To this Darwin responds "You will discover that I can become a most troublesome correspondent."

My own judgment of the correspondence (sometimes 3 letters a week, full of requests) is that Darwin fully justified his threat — a most troublesome old fellow! F.D.W.

exactions of